Rome July 29 1864

My dear Tom

It is great taste a pleasant thing to so dear a brother to say how much I was delighted at his chatty letter & all news it gave me of his dear dear home – how I should like to sit in the old green chair & make one in such a charming sojour – but I dont know when that may be or if it may ever be as I see no end of the momentous things in which I am now evidently, & even one days absence from Rome might occasion no end of evils – Yet I am going to try a dozen miles at Frascati

which there are 3 daily trains for
King Victor Emanuel has again most
graciously permitted me to remain in the
villa & I propose to do a large
historical landscape with for
the sublime scenery — the place
should prove a paradise & would
cost £30 a month — When I first
had the wish that I really so
dearly have been given that any
thing every thing should be done for
me — Get the Prince to take my
Order at my going, get me a
Studio a picture that difficulty
will be got over & there
My painting is flourishing & I am
at it in the early morn

I am now very comfortable, with every thing my own way, ruling with despotic sway in Court of my house, good & trustworthy servants who have been with me from the first; excellent secretaries & time for every thing

My dear Tom sh always seems one so odd & odder when I am working to you that I should ever have been placed in such a situation!! yet how I excel in it still more astonishes me I now every difficulty vanishes before my efforts – Tis at the same time the most felicitous position, for at the same time that I have all the seeming power of an Ambassador yet I have no intrigue to keep me from going about my painting in the true

terrible articles against them in the Morn.
Post &c. — This made my sojourn in the
Royal Villa somewhat sad as they are
quartered in Praiseute, but this all was
passed off & I did my picture of
"Cicero at his Villa" I am here again
at home finishing 5 other pictures &
I crave pardon for so shabby a scrawl
but I am so busy in such a world of
things that I dare not venture on a
longer sheet — So I hope you'll write
me another letter consoling for the
last & repeating all the good things
it contained for I am greedy beyond
measure for your news from your own
dear self — Your loving Joe